

307

MAY 24 2001

G747x

2000

2000

DEPOSITORY

FEB 09 2001

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Project Summaries

George H. Ryan

GOVERNOR,
STATE OF ILLINOIS



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

<https://archive.org/details/governorshometow2000illi>

Governor's Home Town Awards Finalists

CATEGORY I (Population 0 - 2,499)

◆ General Award

Cobden – Community Park Project – The Annual Peach Festival, sponsored by the Cobden Lions Club, had outgrown its home at the local high school ball field. Volunteers were organized to construct a new community park, giving the residents a place to gather, hold family reunions, and to celebrate the efforts that made the project a reality.

Contact: Mayor Homer Forby
P. O. Box 218
Cobden, IL 62920
618/893-2425

Buffalo – Spring Cleanup Day – This annual event mobilizes the community to cleanup trash items that have collected in residents' homes and yards. Organizers now say, the Village is more beautiful, and citizens don't have as much trash accumulated. The long term impact is a Village with more pride and more value.

Contact: Mayor Ralph Fisher
P. O. Box 109
Buffalo, IL 62515
217/364-4903

Elmwood – All-weather Track and Outdoor Improvements – Elmwood has a tradition of joggers, runners and walkers using the streets for recreation. The community banded together to win funding for installation of an all-weather track, and made improvements

to the site and a nearby area to provide recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities.

Contact: Bob Howard
201 W. Main
Elmwood, IL 61529
309/742-2351

◆ Youth Involvement

Merrionette Park – Field of Dreams – The youth baseball program is an integral part of life in Merrionette Park. However, the location of the field was needed to construct a new police station. Volunteers have joined to build a new baseball field, allowing the baseball program to continue to serve as a safe and wholesome activity in the community.

Contact: Margaret Duffy
11720 S. Kedzie
Merrionette Park, IL 708/396-7183

Beecher – Beecher Community Scholarship Association – At the annual Beecher High School graduation ceremony, more time is spent awarding scholarships than is spent on any other part of the program, thanks to the volunteer efforts of the Association. Since 1963, 606 scholarships have been presented to exemplary graduating seniors totaling \$365,500.

Contact: Robert O. Barber
P. O. Box 1154
Beecher, IL 60401
708/946-2261

St. Rose Township – Brent's Dream – Following the death of their friend in a tragic auto accident, a group of young people led fundraising efforts to

purchase the "Jaws of Life" for the local Fire Department. Local citizens and businesses responded generously, and raised the funds needed to purchase the equipment, with donations left over for extra equipment.

Contact: Dominic A. Wessel
18106 Jamestown Road
Breese, IL 62230
618/526-4820

◆ *Senior Citizen Involvement*

Richmond – Senior Bus Service and Recreation Program – Volunteers saw a need for senior citizens to have transportation to shopping and recreational opportunities, and found a way to make use of school buses while they are not transporting students. Organizers say seniors have become more active within the community because of the bus service and are enjoying the things they have worked so hard for all of their lives.

Contact: Mary Buchert
5600 Hunter Drive
Richmond, IL 60071
815/678-4040

◆ *Economic Development*

Oblong – Oblong Lake Restoration Project – Erosion had left Oblong Lake with a water level of barely six feet. Water was often stagnant, and the beauty of the area had faded. Volunteers undertook the mammoth task of restoring the lake, repairing the shoreline, installing fountains and lights, and constructing a walking path. The long term impact is a beautiful lake and park area and a healthier economy in the Oblong community.

Contact: Rick Holt
P. O. Box 85
Oblong, IL 62449
618/592-4175

Saunemin – Community Celebration Series – Saunemin residents were proud of their new Community Building, but felt it was underutilized.

The answer was a series of "celebrations" to bring the community together and showcase the new facility. Successful events were held during the summer, at Halloween and at Christmas, with plans on continuing this tradition into the future.

Contact: Mayor Mike Stoecklin
P. O. Box 222
Saunemin, IL 61769
815/832-4421

CATEGORY II (Population 2,500 - 4,199)

◆ *General Award*

Lena – Lena-Winslow Athletic Complex Pressbox – Community residents felt it was time to replace the pressbox, which fell far short of filling the needs of those using the athletic complex. The result is a new three-story building that boasts several restrooms, an up-to-date concession area, and full facilities for local broadcasters and coaching staff.

Contact: Roger Schaumberger
120 E. Townline Road
Lena, IL 61048
815/369-2642

Tuscola – Actors Rural Theater Company – A local theater group needed a new home, and found one when volunteers worked together to convert a church in Tuscola into a theater and music center. Actors Rural Theater Company has put on many successful productions, providing enjoyment and entertainment for residents of all ages.

Contact: Vicki Stewart
48 Main Street
Champaign, IL 61820
217/359-6500

St. Joseph – All Weather Track Facility – After a narrow defeat 15 years ago, area residents decided to try again in convincing the community to construct a new all weather track at the local school football field.

Volunteers raised more than \$150,000 to put the project on a "fast track" to success.

Contact: Larry Bartley
P. O. Box 592
St. Joseph, IL 61873
217/344-0800

Newton – Newton Public Library and Museum –
Funded entirely with donations, \$100,000 was raised to purchase and renovate a building for a state-of-the-art library and museum complex. Volunteers are proud of what they believe is a commitment not only to Newton's present, but to its future as well.

Contact: Mayor Bob Kerans
108 N. Van Buren
Newton, IL 62448
618/783-3860

◆ Youth Involvement

Marshall – Message of Marshall – The Marshall Area Youth Network (M.A.Y.N.) is a group of committed volunteers with a vision of building strong youth and families in the community. One program the group sponsors is "The Message of Marshall", offering mentoring, local activities and business resources to help prevent substance abuse.

Contact: Heidi Foster
806 N. Sixth Street
Marshall, IL 62441
217/826-2395

Genoa – Random Acts of Kindness Month – The Genoa Chamber of Commerce led volunteers in initiating this event, where citizens, especially schoolchildren, exchanged "tickets" leading to good deeds throughout the community. The result was a reaffirmation of the small town wholesomeness of Genoa.

Contact: Susan J. Drendel
P. O. Box 216
Genoa, IL 60135
815/784-2212

Galena – Galena Art and Recreation Center – The ARC is the primary source of recreational and athletic

programs for the young people of Galena and surrounding communities. Volunteers offer activities ranging from youth basketball, baseball and football to dance and gymnastics and an after school "Kids Club."

Contact: Bill Wirtz
413 S. Bench
Galena, IL 61036
815/777-2653

CATEGORY III (Population 4,200 - 8,799)

◆ General Award

Olympia Fields – Enhancement Organization of Olympia Fields – The Organization was established to promote racial and cultural diversity in the community. The EEOF sponsors many activities, including scholarships at the local high school, and mentoring and tutoring programs. One of the most successful events these volunteers participated in was "Hands Across Southland", a hand holding ceremony that included thousands of residents stretching through eight communities.

Contact: Charles Jackson
3323 Santa Fe Trail
Olympia Fields, IL 60461
708/748-6028

Sugar Grove Township – Bliss House Restoration – One of the earliest homes in the community, this historic structure was in need of relocation and repair. Volunteers raised funds and conducted work on Bliss House, which now serves as the new home of the Sugar Grove Historical Society and draws visitors to Main Street and the downtown area.

Contact: Barbara Hollmier
45 W 040 Scott Road
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
630/466-4950

Olympia Fields – Arcadia Home Owners Association – A small group of residents decided there was a need to revitalize the Arcadia subdivision's Home

Owners Association. The value of having such an association became evident when a convicted sex offender was found to reside near the elementary school without having registered in accordance with state laws. Residents took action to petition against allowing sex offenders to reside in close proximity to schools and parks, resulting in state legislation. Projects have also included beautification of entryways and adjoining highways, and membership in the Home Owners Association has grown to 45 percent of Arcadia households.

Contact: Robert A. Boehm
3400 W. 203rd Street
Olympia Fields, IL 60461
708/747-4530

◆ Youth Involvement

Countryside – Haunted Manor – More than 400 young people were involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of this Halloween attraction, giving youths the opportunity to learn many new skills, meet other people from diverse backgrounds and positively contribute to the vibrant life of the community.

Contact: David Terrazino
47 S. Sixth Avenue
Suite 110
LaGrange, IL 60525
708/579-5898

Putnam County – Putnam County Connection – Founded to fight substance abuse problems among teens, the Putnam County Connection continues those programs, and has become involved in many new projects. For example, this volunteer group operates a used clothing store that will sell items to people in need for a nominal fee, and if a person or family can't afford the cost of clothes, they are provided free of charge.

Contact: Edward J. Ferrari
Box 28
Granville, IL 61326
815/339-2645

Edwards County – Safe School Seminar – Students Active in Leadership, or SAIL, is a small group of outstanding young people attending Edwards County Community Unit School District #1 in Albion. With only minimal guidance from adults, SAIL organized a highly successful seminar on safe schools in the wake of the Columbine High School tragedy, involving other students, local officials and judges.

Contact: Robert W. Brucher
106 W. Main Street
Albion, IL 62806
618/445-2814

Flora – Main Street Historical Mural – The Flora Junior High and High School students entered into a joint venture with the City of Flora and the Main Street Design Committee to “re-do” an empty wall in the downtown area. After many hours of designing and painting, the structure now displays a mural depicting historical buildings, occupations and industries during the past century in Flora.

Contact: Mary Beth Stine
600 S. Locust Street
Flora, IL 62839
618/662-4059

◆ Senior Citizen Involvement

Clarendon Hills – 75th Anniversary Celebration – Members of the community came together to celebrate this joyous occasion, with yearlong volunteer activities that included a Clarendon Hills Cookbook and a quilt sewn by local craftspeople. The success of the 75th Anniversary Celebration has led to planning for more events to further develop a sense of community within the Village.

Contact: Jim Sigman
1 N. Prospect Avenue
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
630/323-3500 ext. 22

Mascoutah – *Berger-Kiel House* – The Mascoutah Historical Society purchased and moved this log home when its proximity to a new airport would have led to its demolition. Now at its new home in a local park, the structure has been restored by volunteers, and is a rare example of one-and-one-half story log houses in near-original condition.

Contact: Carol Klopmeier
504 N. Jefferson Street
Mascoutah, IL 62258
618/566-2567

Berkeley – *75th Anniversary Celebration* – An all-volunteer Anniversary Committee planned and implemented events that included a Memorial Day parade and ice cream social, a block party and craft show, a community-wide garage sale and an antique car show. The celebration raised community awareness for new residents, and brought together those that have lived in the area all of their lives.

Contact: Andrianna Carr
5819 Electric Avenue
Berkeley, IL 60163
708/449-8840

◆ *Economic Development*

Greenville – *Westminster Chimes and Carillon for Downtown Courthouse* – The Greenville Women's Club has made improving the community's downtown a top priority. With help from other volunteer organizations, the carillon and chimes were installed, creating a charming atmosphere that encourages people to pause and linger in the downtown area.

Contact: Sandra Loyd
214 N. Third
Greenville, IL 62246
618/664-2255

Chillicothe – *Spider Hill* – The Chillicothe Optimist Club and Three Sisters Park, a living history farm and community, joined forces to create Spider Hill for four weekends in October. A haunted house, walking trail, and bonfire were among the scary attractions offered.

More than 8,000 visitors attended Spider Hill, generating \$50,000 for community and youth projects.

Contact: Frances Perkins
P. O. Box 551
Chillicothe, IL 61523
309/274-8837

CATEGORY IV (Population 8,800 - 17,999)

◆ *General Award*

Mokena – *Mokena Clean-Up Week* – Sponsored by the Mokena Environmental Commission, this annual event culminates in a community-wide Clean-Up Day, mobilizing the efforts of some 300 volunteers. Organizers feel the real result of Clean-Up Day is impressing on children in the community the importance of citizen responsibility in making their home a wonderful place to live.

Contact: Rich Massey
11004 Carpenter Street
Mokena, IL 60448
708/479-3900

Kewanee – *"Oasis" Family Aquatic Center* – The Kewanee Park District was forced to close a popular local swimming pool due to deteriorating conditions in 1996. The community rallied behind replacing the pool, passing a \$1 million referendum, securing state funds and private donations. The effort paid off, with the new Aquatic Center opening in July of 1999.

Contact: Brian Johnson
1095 Cambridge Road
Kewanee, IL 61443
309/852-2872

Murphysboro – *Elizabeth A. Smysor Memorial Plaza* – After becoming an Illinois Main Street Community, Murphysboro sought design services for the development of an empty downtown lot. After

many volunteer hours of planning and execution, the result is the Plaza, with a beautiful fountain and mural depicting famous local residents.

Contact: Christopher Basler
P. O. Box 606
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618/687-3732

◆ *Youth Involvement*

Washington – *Washington Community Leadership Challenge* – Founded by a student, the Leadership Challenge fosters the spirit of volunteerism and community service in young people through leadership activities during their four years of high school. It is the hope of the program to encourage individuals to become involved in the community for the benefit of others, and to make volunteerism a part of everyday life.

Contact: Denise Magnuson
112 Washington Square
Washington, IL 61571
309/444-9921

Sterling – *Great Times Summer Youth Program* – Sponsored by the Sterling Police Department, the goal of the Great Times summer program is to teach through entertainment the importance of graduating from high school. The young people participating in classes three days each week thought they were playing games, such as “What’s My Career”, when in fact they were learning valuable lessons about realistic career opportunities and the value of establishing life goals.

Contact: Lt. Steve Sanders
212 3rd Avenue
Sterling, IL 61081
815/622-2200

Olney – *Bird Haven Revitalization* – When Kyle Henton was looking for an Eagle Scout project, he discovered the need to improve Bird Haven, an arboretum and bird sanctuary created in 1906. Kyle recruited volunteers to help with repairs and educate

the community and schoolchildren about the preservation of this valuable natural resource.

Contact: Belinda C. Henton
300 S. Whittle
Olney, IL 62450
618/395-7302

◆ *Senior Citizen Involvement*

Palos Hills – *1999 Year of the Healthy Heart* – Noting that heart disease is a growing concern among seniors, the city’s Senior Advisory Board sponsored activities planned and attended by seniors that included line dancing lessons and heart healthy potluck lunches. Senior residents were treated to a year of educational, informative and fun activities promoting good health.

Contact: Mary Jo Vincent
10335 S. Roberts Road
Palos Hills, IL 60465
708/598-3400 ext. 114

CATEGORY V (Population 18,000 - 28,999)

◆ *General Award*

Elmwood Park – *“The Taste of Elmwood Park” Festival* – Volunteers from throughout the Village join to organize and work at the Festival, which draws up to 50,000 attendees each year. The proceeds from “Taste of Elmwood Park” have benefited a variety of civic projects, including helping to build parks, beautify the community, and sponsor the local baseball league.

Contact: John J. Dalicandro
11 Conti Parkway
Elmwood Park, IL 60707
708/452-3912

Lake in the Hills – Interfaith Food Pantry – Churches and organizations in Lake in the Hills and Algonquin determined a food pantry was needed in the area. Because of the efforts of volunteers working on the project, the two communities now have a food pantry to assist families that have experienced a sudden illness, unemployment or other difficulties. Beyond the services it provides, the Interfaith Food Pantry also serves as a symbol of the communities' concern and compassion for families and individuals who are less fortunate.

Contact: Richard Hoferle
716 Hillside Court
Algonquin, IL 60102
847/658-5130

Glendale Heights – Christmas Sharing Program – Volunteers from throughout the community are dedicated to providing the neediest residents and families of Glendale Heights with a "home town" Christmas. Recipients are identified, and donations of money, food, clothing and toys are collected and delivered by volunteers contributing more than 1,000 hours of time and effort.

Contact: JoAnn Borysiewicz
300 Civic Center Plaza
Glendale Heights, IL 60139
630/260-6000

◆ Youth Involvement

Maywood – Cook County President's Office of Employment Training (POET) – Summer Youth Employment Program participants competed in an essay contest, where each young person summed up the value of their employment experience. The top six essayists were awarded IBM computers. Local government officials voluntarily invested time and resources in the program, while the youths gained important work experience.

Contact: Ron Harper
69 W. Washington
Suite 2800
Chicago, IL 60602
708/709-3000 ext. 242

Mundelein – Youth Committee Project – The Youth Committee was created to develop strategies to make Mundelein a healthy place for young people and families to live. Approximately 500 volunteers now work to make events such as National Night Out, Red Ribbon Week and the Fishing Seminar and Derby a success. Youth activities have led to a reduction in drug activity, gang graffiti, and juvenile crimes.

Contact: Chief Raymond J. Rose
200 N. Seymour Avenue
Mundelein, IL 60060
847/949-3250

Jacksonville – Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce Business Education Partnership – In this partnership, Nestle Beverage, USA and the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) joined together for the benefit of students and professionals. Under the theme of "Working Together - Learning Together" Nestle sponsors many programs for ISD students, including Student of the Month and Student of the Year, recreational events, field trips, and correspondence under the "Pen-Friends" program.

Contact: Mary Rowe Henry
155 W. Morton Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650
217/245-2174

◆ Senior Citizen Involvement

Mundelein – A-May-Zing Mundelein - A Day of Caring – This event was designed to bring together the residents of the community to work side-by-side with senior citizens. More than 450 volunteers came forward to assist seniors in chores such as painting, yard work, and errand running, making it truly an A-May-Zing day!

Contact: Chief Raymond J. Rose
200 N. Seymour Avenue
Mundelein, IL 60060
847/949-3250

Mundelein – Senior Citizen's Police Academy – The original goals of this educational effort were to open a dialogue with the senior community and reduce crime and the fear of crime. Organizers also hoped to provide seniors with a variety of resources available to them throughout the community and county. By providing seniors with information, a major step was taken to prevent them from becoming crime victims.

Contact: Chief Raymond J. Rose
200 N. Seymour Avenue
Mundelein, IL 60060
847/949-3250

Bloomington – Street Smart Seniors – The Street Smart Seniors Program provides a forum for senior citizens to voluntarily participate and interact not only with the police department, but with other Village departments as well. The program consists of a series of class lectures, presentations, and discussions on topics of concern for seniors, including police procedures, elder abuse and confidence games. As a result, senior participants take a more active role in the community and share information for community-policing efforts.

Contact: Det. Dawn Odoi
201 S. Bloomington Road
Bloomington 60108
630/529-9868

CATEGORY VI (Population 29,000 - 49,999)

◆ General Award

Hoffman Estates – Summer Concert Series – As the result of a survey, it was determined residents desired a venue for concert opportunities, leading to the birth of the Summer Concert Series. With the cooperation of the Village and Park District, volunteers from the local Arts Commission organize the concerts, which have included blues, gospel, jazz and barbershop performers.

Contact: Michelle Pilafas
1900 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195-2302
847/882-9100

Pekin – Spruce Up Pekin Program – This effort to "spruce up" the community has grown to a twice-a-year event, with activities scheduled in the spring and fall. Approximately 15,000 residents volunteer in different ways to make the events successful. Because of the efforts of businesses, service clubs, school districts, elderly residents and preschool children, Pekin has become a city of pride and beauty.

Contact: Greg Ranney
1130 Koch Street
Pekin, IL 61554
309/477-2329

Elk Grove Village – Smart Parents, Safe Kids.com – Concerned about the potential for the exploitation of children via the Internet, the Elk Grove Village Police Department, the local high school, and the Children's Advocacy Center initiated a program to enhance parental awareness of the dangers of Internet use. Through a series of seminars, parents were educated about the Internet, and possible child victims were saved from violence.

Contact: Chief Stephen Schmidt
901 Wellington Avenue
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847/357-4100

◆ Youth Involvement

Urbana – Mentoring Program – During 1999, approximately 65 volunteer mentors spent an hour each week with assigned students at Prairie Elementary School, Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School. Mentors read to students, help students with homework, play games with students, or just provide an ear to students who need to talk to someone. Volunteers have also developed a scholarship foundation for students participating in the mentoring program.

Contact: Barbara Linder
1201 S. Vine
Urbana, IL 61801
217/337-0853

Alton – First Night Riverbend – This family-oriented New Year's Eve celebration appeals to volunteers and participants of all ages, especially children. The Children's Venue has many hands-on activities, performers, and story tellers, and is so popular that it is held in a double gymnasium. This past December 31st, the gym was filled with approximately 600 adults and children.

Contact: Rita Backstrom
101 E. Third Street
Alton, IL 62002-6239
618/463-3532

Addison – Student Participation Center – The prime time for juveniles to get into trouble is between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., when many children are unsupervised because their parents are at work. To meet this need, the Addison Police Department and the DuPage Prevention Partnership joined forces with high school and community volunteers to open the Student Participation Center. Now, students who were previously involved in negative activities, such as gangs, are getting involved in constructive activities after school, and regularly choose to spend time at the center.

Contact: Dep. Police Chief Larry Stoll
131 W. Lake Street
Addison, IL 60101
630/543-3080

◆ *Senior Citizen Involvement*

Niles – By Popular Request: Seniors After Hours – The Niles Senior Center began to receive requests that the facility sometimes be open in the evenings or on weekends, since those can be lonely times for seniors. The center complied, offering special events and regular activities staffed by senior volunteers. These special programs introduce younger seniors who may still be working to the Senior Center, and when they are ready, it will be natural for them to join.

Contact: James Stavish
999 Civic Center Drive
Niles, IL 60714
847/588-8420

Elk Grove Village – Police and Seniors Together (P.A.S.T.) – The goal of this program is to unite the seniors in the community in the hope that they become close friends who will turn to each other and the police for assistance when faced with abuse. Monthly meetings are held, and in 1999, membership jumped to 167 participants with new seniors becoming involved each month.

Contact: Chief Stephen Schmidt
901 Wellington Avenue
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847/357-4100

◆ *Economic Development*

Alexander, Johnson and Pulaski Counties – Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone, Inc. – These three counties joined together in applying for Empowerment Zone status, since all of the areas faced similar economic problems and a regional approach to development was needed. Volunteers met tirelessly to obtain public input for a Strategic Plan, went door-to-door seeking letters of support, petitions and surveys, and spent hours completing the application process. Since the designation, volunteer efforts have continued, and a solid organizational structure is in place to begin implementing the Strategic Plan.

Contact: Donna Raynalds
202 Rustic Campus Drive
Ullin, IL 62992
618/634-9471

Quincy – Quincy Business and Technology Center – Under the leadership of head volunteer Les McKenzie, the Quincy Business and Technology Center has made a strong comeback from declining occupancy and revenues. Now, the QBTC has become a primary force in the community for providing services, jobs, and helping to create new businesses.

Contact: Les McKenzie
301 Oak Street
Quincy, IL 62301
217/228-5500

CATEGORY VII (Population 50,000 - 99,999)

◆ *General Award*

Elgin – *Fiesta Salsa* – City leaders found an excellent way to celebrate the community's diversity when they created Fiesta Salsa, bringing together all segments of the population to enjoy hispanic culture. Volunteers organized a parade, entertainment, a "Miss Hispanidad" contest, and the "Salsa Challenge". The event is described as a "giant step in the right direction for forging cultural diversity for the entire community, while having a wonderful time doing it."

Contact: Kevin Nelson
164 Division Street #1
Elgin, IL 60120
847/488-1456

Rich Township – *Unity Coalition of the South Suburbs* – The Coalition is a group of individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations, school and park districts, and municipal and government entities founded to create forms of communication and action to celebrate the cultural diversity and racial richness of south suburban Cook County. A Unity Day Celebration included a "Hands Across Southland" event patterned after "Hands Across America." More 7,000 people participated in this human chain to show their commitment to diversity and unity.

Contact: Elizabeth Dunn
22013 Governors Highway
Richton Park, IL 60471
708/748-6722

Orland Township – *Orland Township Food Pantry* – The Orland Township Food Pantry provides nutritionally-balanced packages of emergency food to those residents who qualify for the program. In addition to distributing food, the Pantry coordinates a Holiday Program, School Supply Assistance Program, Easter Basket Project, Infant Car Seat Program, and Winter Apparel Assistance Program. With the help of

volunteers from the Orland Township community, the Food Pantry has been and will continue to be a great help to those in need.

Contact: Marianne Hill
15100 S. 94th Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60462
708/403-4222

◆ *Youth Involvement*

Cicero – Cicero Youth Commission – The purpose of the Cicero Youth Commission is to provide young people with viable alternatives to gang activity. Without the intense dedication and hard work of volunteers, programs such as Family Fun Fest, Adopt-A-Block, and a Haunted House wouldn't be possible. Since 1994, youth crime in the area has decreased by 29 percent.

Contact: Vincent M. Iaccino III
3513 S. 58th Avenue
Cicero, IL 60804
708/557-2610

Cicero – "*Kidsnews*" – The official newsletter of the Cicero Youth Commission, *Kidsnews* is a monthly publication that lists upcoming youth events in the community. Volunteers are responsible for all aspects of *Kidsnews*, from writing to photography, printing and delivery. The result has been increased attendance at Commission events, and a forum for youngsters with a publication of their own.

Contact: Rocco J. Dauge
3513 S. 58th Avenue
Cicero, IL 60804
708/863-3551

Bloom Township – *Neighborhood Restorative Justice Mediation Program* – Community volunteers who have received specialized training in conflict resolution are at the heart of this effort to deter juvenile crime. The program brings juvenile offenders and victims together with a mediator, and the result is often a young person who turns from crime to learn

community service and responsibility, and the process lessens a victim's fear and increases understanding.

Contact: Dan Sanaghan
425 S. Halsted Street
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708/754-9400 ext. 230

◆ *Senior Citizen Involvement*

Palos Township – Senior Advisory Board and Ambassadors – Input received from these senior volunteers, members of senior citizen clubs throughout the township, has guided officials in addressing the needs and concerns of Palos Township senior citizens. This partnership with government organizations has resulted in some heartwarming success stories, such as helping an elderly senior citizen obtain a new roof, and aiding a couple in gaining a refund from the Social Security Administration for an overpayment.

Contact: Bernie Orr
10802 S. Roberts Road
Palos Hills, IL 60465
708/598-4418

Schaumburg – Senior Advisory Council – The Schaumburg Senior Advisory Council is composed of seniors elected by their peers and is responsible for numerous educational, social and physical activity programs that benefit the senior community. The subsidized meal program, for example, provides well-balanced nutritious hot meals every day at a low cost to the senior. Other activities include Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons for seniors that are alone during the holidays.

Contact: Patrick Luehring
101 Schaumburg Court
Schaumburg, IL 60193
847/923-3700

Wayne Township – Wayne Township Senior Center – “Serving Seniors with Pride” is the Wayne Township Senior Center’s motto. One project is called “Seniors Helping Seniors”. A less fortunate senior is chosen to receive anything up to and above what public aid or Medicare provides. A recent participant received more than \$1,000 toward a pharmacy bill, an expensive pair of shoes in an unusual size and special gifts throughout the year.

Contact: Julie Heuer
27W031 North Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185
630/231-7140

◆ *Economic Development*

Charleston, Mattoon, and Coles County - Working Together for Tomorrow’s Future - After the City of Charleston began comprehensive planning efforts in 1994, a small group of citizens of Charleston, Mattoon and Coles County saw an opportunity to broaden those efforts. They were also willing to donate their time and resources to encourage successful completion of this complex joint planning initiative. As more volunteers got involved, the plans were developed, reviewed and completed. Now, these local governments share long term goals, and are coordinating them to ensure mutual respect and success.

Contact: Mayor Dan Cougill
520 Jackson Street
Charleston, IL 61920
217/345-5650

CATEGORY VIII (Population over 100,000)

◆ *General Award*

Winnebago County – Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program – These special volunteers serve as advocates and friends of abused and

neglected children moving through the court system. In addition to the emotional and moral support provided for these children, many of them are placed in nurturing homes as a result of the program.

Contact: Roseann Cannariato
P. O. Box 4701
Rockford, IL 61110-4701

Frankfort Township and Will County – Fort Frankfort – Operation Playground was developed in January, 1999 by a group of citizens seeking a volunteer-based community project that would also fulfill the need for a wonderful and safe place for the children of Frankfort to play. Land was donated, the playground was designed, fundraisers were held, and construction took place, all with the help of volunteers. The community's children even voted on the name of the playground — "Fort Frankfort".

Contact: Jeff Boubelik
140 Oak Street
Frankfort, IL 60423
815/469-9400

Schaumburg Township – General Assistance Holiday Adopt A Family Program – This program was established to not only provide less fortunate residents with food and gifts, but also to raise awareness that the community understands, accepts and cares about them as individuals. Because of the generosity of the community, more than 1,200 adults, and children in more than 500 households, received food and gifts at Christmas. Volunteers of all ages, ethnic groups, and occupations were eager to help their neighbors in need.

Contact: Sandra Wolf
One Illinois Boulevard
Hoffman Estates, IL 60194
847/844-0030 ext. 1010

◆ Youth Involvement

Will and Grundy Counties – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will and Grundy Counties – The innovative "Career Path Program" utilizes positive role models from the business community to help students develop skills that are necessary for success at both school and work. In addition to special projects, volunteers meet with their students at least once a month to work on career-oriented goals, organizational skills, motivation and developing relationships.

Contact: Kathy Johnson
2322 Plainfield Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815/725-4324

Palatine Township – "Apple Tree Campaign" – In August of 1999, the "Apple Tree Campaign" provided new school supplies to more than 500 children in the Palatine Township community. Youngsters in kindergarten through junior high received backpacks filled with school supplies, all donated and collected by volunteers.

Contact: Janet Wozniak
721 S. Quentin Road
Palatine 60067
847/991-9736

◆ Economic Development

Aurora – Tax Assistance Program – This non-profit organization provides free tax preparation services to lower income individuals and families that need assistance. Volunteers help clients bring home tax refunds that they may not have known were available to them. In 1999, the Tax Assistance Program prepared more than 300 returns that resulted in refunds of \$355,000 for the Aurora community.

Contact: Marie Jensen
1405 N. Fifth Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174
630/444-4818



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 048183047

2000

GOVERNOR'S HOME TOWN AWARDS PROGRAM

In a time of reduced public resources, volunteers have organized in many communities to contribute to their town's economic progress and quality of life. By taking the initiative on a project, volunteers are completing projects which otherwise would not be accomplished. The Governor's Home Town Awards Program recognizes the outstanding successes that volunteers have made in their communities in addressing local needs.

Administered by the
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Pam McDonough, Director

